

Michael O. Leavitt Governor Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D. Executive Director Don A. Ostler, P.E.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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June 25, 1999

Mr. William R. Williams
General Manager HSEQ & Technical Services
Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation
P. O. Box 6001
Magna, Utah 84044-6001

Dear Mr. Williams:

JUL - 2 1999

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Subject: Plan for Cessation of Active Dump Leaching at Bingham Canyon Mine.

We have reviewed the Kennecott Utah Cooper Corporation June 4, 1999 letter and Plan for Cessation of Active Dump Leaching at Bingham Canyon Mine. The Plan describes a three year process of eliminating active leaching of the mine dumps.

Your report states that leaching of the Keystone Dump was discontinued in January, 1999. Areas code 45 and the eastern part of code 40 which also drain to the Keystone drainage will be discontinued this year as part of Phase I. During the summer when there is no discharge from the tailings impoundment, an initial 500 gpm will be pumped to the tailings line and impoundment for neutralization. Higher flow rates may be approved if the metal and pH data for four consecutive weeks complies with the UPDES permit limitations.

Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of Part I Section e of the Ground Water Discharge Permit No. UGW350011 for the Kennecott Tailings Impoundment and the UPDES Permit No. UT0000051, your proposal to initially treat 500 gpm of wastewater from inactive leach areas while there is no tailings pond discharge is hereby approved provided:

- 1. Kennecott complies with all of its UPDES permit limitations.
- 2. The process monitoring is performed weekly as proposed in the June 4, 1999 Plan.

The data should be submitted monthly along with the UPDES permit discharge monitoring reports (DMRs).

William R. Williams
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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Steven McNeal at 538-6075.

Sincerely,

Utah Water Quality Board

Don A. Ostler, P.E. Executive Secretary

DAO:SRM:st/mhf

cc: Curt McCormick, EPA Region VIII

Terry Sadler, Salt Lake City/County Health Dept. Wayne Hedberg, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

Donna Inman, EPA Region VIII

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